

**Presbyterian Women
Presbytery of the Mid-South
2010 – 2011 Moderator's Report**

The 2009 – 2010 year for 95 Presbyterian Women ended at the Annual Gathering on May 1, 2010 with flash flooding and storm warning sirens. In spite of the chaos, Dee Koza gave a very inspiring message entitled *Journeying with God: Discovering God's Vision*.

On June 3 – 5, 2010, fourteen of our women had a wonderful experience at the PW Synod Triennium Gathering in Huntsville, Alabama. We were excited to hear the Rev. Dr. Louise Lawson Johnson, who was at the time a member of the Presbytery of the Mid-South, share her comments about the Bible Study on Revelation. With that in our minds, we encouraged women from the Presbytery to attend our Annual Bible Study Conference held at the beautiful and peaceful Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, which Dr. Johnson led. There were 161 in attendance at this Conference on August 28, 2010.

The Annual Fall Workshop Gathering, *Celebrating God's Goodness*, was held on the first Saturday in October at Balmoral Presbyterian Church with 63 Presbyterian Women in attendance. The Rev. Norlita Kaul gave the Keynote Address which was followed by Workshops on Leadership, Communications and Computers, Missions, Storytelling, Spiritual Healing (Labyrinth). The Women of Balmoral were gracious hostesses and provided an enjoyable lunch.

On April 2, 2011, the Presbyterian Women traveled to Jackson, Tennessee, for our Annual Spring Gathering. There were 122 women in attendance including Jackie Riddle, PW Synod Moderator, and Martha Knichel, Churchwide CCT Representative. The Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan, Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio, gave the message, *Thinking Outside the Roof*, and led us in song. The new Coordinating Team Members were installed and the gavel was passed from Outgoing Moderator, Vashti Crowder, to the New Moderator, Marti Becker. The service continued with the reading of the Necrology and Holy Communion. A delicious luncheon was served by the Women of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson.

It has been a year of challenge, change, and soul searching for the Presbytery of the Mid-South. Eight of our churches voted to leave the denomination, five of which had active PW's. We lost five members of the PWCT. I am a member of the Standing Administrative Commission of the Presbytery that has been working with these churches, as well as two other churches who discussed the possibility but have not done so. We have prayed for and with these churches and the women. May we all find peace and harmony in our diversity as we work together sharing the Word of God and the Mission we are all called to do.

Marti Becker, Moderator